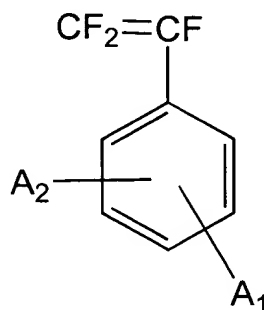


ELECTION OF SPECIES

Applicants hereby provisionally elect, with traverse, the following species for prosecution on the merits:

A composite membrane comprising a polymeric base film of poly(ethylene-co-tetrafluoroethylene), to which has been graft polymerized monomers of formula (I) wherein A_1 is methyl and A_2 is hydrogen.

As set forth in claim 1, the chemical structure of formula (I), including substituents A_1 and A_2 , is:



REMARKS

The above elected species is encompassed by independent claims 1 and 29, as well as dependent claims 2, 6, 18, 20 and 24. The elected species may also be encompassed by dependent claim 22 depending on the ring position of the methyl substituent, and by dependent claim 30 depending on whether a portion of the grafted chains are crosslinked.

In summary, applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 6, 18, 20, 22, 24, 29 and 30 encompass the elected species. The remaining

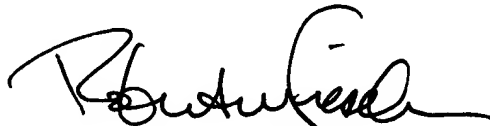
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Group I claims elected in response to the restriction requirement, namely, dependent claims 3-5, 7-17, 19, 21, 23, 25-28 and 56 are directed to nonelected species. Applicants understand that these nonelected claims will be withdrawn from consideration and, upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims written in dependent form or otherwise, including all of the limitations of an allowed generic claim.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue claims 3-5, 7-17, 19, 21, 23, 25-28 and 56, as well as any other claims withdrawn from consideration in the present application, in separate continuing application(s) filed during the pendency of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees incurred in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 13-0017.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert W. Fieseler', written over a horizontal line.

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Dated: September 21, 2000

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Director of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, DC 20591, on 9-21-00
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Registered Representative

Robert W. Fieseler
Signature

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